

## Neighborhood Compatibility Meeting (Virtual) Conditional Zoning Request #R-2020-03-C (SE Asphalt) Monday, June 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Letters about the meeting were mailed to property owners within 400 feet of the boundary of the proposed development. Approximately 125 people attended the meeting and 161 people submitted questions online prior to the meeting. The following County staff and applicant's agent were in attendance:

Name	Title/Organization
Autumn Radcliff	Planning Director
Matt Champion	Project Development Planner
John Mitchell	Business and Community Development Director
Jacob Compher	Planner
Warren Sugg	Applicant's Agent, Engineer with Civil Design
	Concepts

Mrs. Autumn Radcliff opened the meeting and provided a welcome and introductions. She stated that the purpose of the meeting is for nearby neighbors to learn about the proposed project and ask questions of the applicant prior to formal review by the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners (BOC). She gave a quick overview for the process of the meeting. The applicant would give a presentation of the proposed project, staff would proceed by asking questions to the applicant that were submitted online, followed with questions from the public participating in the meeting. She thanked everyone who has submitted comments through the various submission methods.

Applicant's Agent Overview: Mr. Warren Sugg, Agent, with Civil Design Concepts gave a brief overview of the project. The subject area is bound by Spartanburg Hwy and US25. The acreage of the total project PIN is 11.9 acres. The subject area is only 6.5 acres and the remaining portion of the parcel, 5.4 acres, will remain in Community Commercial. There are several buffers required of the project. The driveway for the site will be off Spartanburg Hwy. The site will access public water through the City of Hendersonville and have an on-site private septic system. The applicant is from this area and has been here for several decades. The site will be constructed for the applicant who will run the site and doesn't intend to be developed and sold off. The site is in a central location and is easily accessible for trucks to access I-26 without driving through higher residential areas. Market demand is high based on connectivity and accessibility which is a primary reason for this specific site. The site would not be running 24-7, but times of operations could vary based on contracts with NCDOT.

**Questions and Answers Discussion:** Below is a list of questions asked by the citizens that either attended the meeting or submitted questions online prior to the meeting then followed by the applicant's response/explanation. Several questions submitted online were asked by multiple

citizens. The applicant's agent just referred to previous answers when the same questions was asked.

- 1. Has a traffic study been conducted to determine the effect on the Level of Service on Spartanburg Highway? No traffic impact analysis is required.
- 2. What odor control measures will be in place and how are they monitored? State has air quality requirements for asphalt plants and is monitored either hourly, daily, or biannually based on those requirements.
- 3. What effort has been considered for the health of the individuals who are in our communities bordering this area? What risks to the elderly population that lives in the area who may already have compromised breathing issues? What can we expect from the change in air quality and odors coming from the plant? State outlines specific tolerances that an asphalt plant can emit when in operation. Applicants have hired a specialist to determine these standards and to make sure the plant will meet these standards.
- 4. What will be the noise level requirements for the site? Standard noise levels for any commercial activity. The site will sit down from the road which will capture the noise generated during operation.
- 5. How can you mitigate pollution to nearby streams like Laurel Creek which you would practically be sitting on and is one of the largest tributaries to the Green River? The project will be required to install stormwater and erosion and sedimentation controls.
- 6. How do you plan to protect us from chemical emissions? Comply with state requirements and controls that are in place for operations.
- 7. What are the plans to make the intersection of Spartanburg Hwy and Roper Road safer with the increased truck traffic? NCDOT requires a driveway permit that will outline stipulations the applicant will have to personally install or mitigate in order to operate out of the site.
- 8. Have the teachers and school families been notified of the potential detrimental effects of exposure to the asphalt plant air to young children who practice PE and sports outdoors? The County has set specific distance requirements that the project must be set back from residential areas. The project is designed to meet those standards.
- 9. What is the economic impact on residential real estate values within a ½ mile of a plant? Unable to answer what impact the plant will have on residential property values since his profession is in engineering not a property appraiser.
- 10. How will the smell from the plant be contained? Why can't it be located in an industrial area more suitable? Noted and already answered.
- 11. What will be done to protect the air we breathe and the Green River from toxins? Noted and already answered.
- 12. What is the risk to public health? How will it increase truck traffic on roads in East Flat Rock and Flat Rock? Noted and already answered
- 13. How will this plant affect the air quality for Hillandale and Flat Rock schools? Noted and already answered
- 14. What are the proposed hours and days of operation? Monday through Saturday from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- 15. Will there be a report on the environmental impact the proposed plan will have on the watershed and specifically the Green River Game Lands and will this report be made

- available to the public? The applicant has hired an environmental specialist who will perform a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment that will be performed for the site.
- 16. What is the justification for why the 2 existing plants in Hendersonville cannot meet local needs such that a 3<sup>rd</sup> is needed? The applicant feels like this asphalt plant is needed.
- 17. Is the applicant aware of the homes in the Lakemont subdivision and how close some of these homes are to the proposed site (just across Hwy 25)? Noted and interior setbacks are in place for site.
- 18. What is the county proposing as far as ensuring waste run off? The applicant will have an on-site septic system, stormwater retention controls, and erosion and sedimentation plan for runoff during development. Also, the applicant will monitor air quality during operations.
- 19. Have there been health issues related to the output of an asphalt plant? The applicant is complying with the requirements outlined by the state.
- 20. Will a noise study be conducted? The applicant is unaware of a potential noise study but will look into it.
- 21. Why isn't this plant being built in an industrial park instead of a community? Noted
- 22. Will the operator have monies but in reserve or bonds to cover any neighborhood illnesses that could be proven in the future to be directly connected to this operation in close proximity of neighborhoods. Noted
- 23. How will my health and property values be protected? Have environmental studies been done to see how detrimental this will be to the area? Noted and already answered these questions.
- 24. How would you like to live across the street from an asphalt plant? Noted
- 25. What is the average income of the proposed plant's near neighbors? Noted
- 26. What type of chemicals are used for such a plant? Have there been air quality impact surveys done to show what impact this will have on our health? Noted
- 27. Why this location? The applicant chose this location due to it's proximity to US25, location to surrounding counties, and Comp Plan recommendations.
- 28. How many properties in Henderson County already zoned for industrial use? Why each one is unacceptable for the proposed project? The applicant chose this site due to it's proximity to surrounding areas and major roads.
- 29. How many trucks are anticipated to be entering/exiting the facility daily? 50 trucks or less per day.
- 30. How was this meeting advertised to local residents? Mrs. Radcliff covered this during her introduction. Mailings to adjacent property owners within 400' of the site and advertising on the County's website.
- 31. How many truck trips would the plant experience at top production levels? 50 trips or less per day.
- 32. Will this plant be temporary or permanent? The plant will be permanent.
- 33. What businesses or entities will be sharing the proposed driveway shown on the site plan? The applicant does not know what or if any other businesses will occupy the 5.4 acre outparcel.
- 34. Is the creation of the proposed subdivision integral to the application under review? Not required, but the applicant only wants the property included in the application to be 6.5 acres.

- 35. How are the 30' B2 buffer to residential and 500' residential buffer requirements related? The 30' B2 buffer is for landscaping and screening the site from adjacent property owners, specifically residential. The 500' residential buffer is a required setback from residential uses for the entire project.
- 36. Would design standards from the East Flat Rock community plan be included with the construction of the site? The applicant will gladly review those design standards.

Questions below were asked by the attendees of the live zoom meeting. Following the question, the applicant's agent responded.

- 1. Lois Pasapane Who owns the land? Can you list specific benefits to the community? Mr. Sugg, the land is owned by DPG Holdings, LLC. Benefit for community by providing asphalt to the area as infrastructure needs arise. Being proposed by someone who has been a part of this community for decades.
- 2. Reid Would Mr. Sugg object to this project if it was proposed in his area? Mr. Sugg, takes the question under advisement.
- 3. Mark Will they be recycling the millings of old asphalt? Catch basin for truck's being washed after dropping off the millings? Can they guarantee nothing will runoff from the site? Mr. Sugg, millings will take place on site. Wash down areas will meet state requirements for runoff and all local requirements. Will do a Phase 1 Environmental Review that will address the soil and ground containments
- 4. Gordon Smith Justify the rezoning from commercial to industrial? Social justice issues surrounding GE and how will the project further those issues? Mr. Sugg, conditional rezoning is a standalone district. Not going to a straight industrial district. Social justice issues are outside of the purview of a site preparer
- 5. Nathan Newquist New full-time jobs created and income? Mr. Sugg, 6 to 7 employees and well-paid workers. Not comfortable giving the full salary detail.
- 6. Jen Does your client plan to sell the property after 5 years? Mr. Sugg, no they plan to remain at site and be permanent.
- 7. Shannon Nicholson What is your process from hearing neighborhood complaints? Mr. Sugg, right now is the time to voice all concerns. Continue to let your concerns be voiced to us. Continue to submit questions or concerns to County Staff
- 8. Eric Riewerts What is the decibel level of noise anticipated? And frequency of all operations on site? Mr. Sugg, has not quantified but anticipated not to be higher than what is on US25 and Spartanburg Hwy. Can assure that the noise and frequency will be lower than Spartanburg Hwy and US25. Required to keep the 5.4 acre outparcel as part of this process? Mr. Sugg, no and the outparcel can't just be cleared.
- 9. Michelle Tennant Nicholson Why did we not postpone this since not everyone can access the meeting? Mrs. Radcliff, this is a Q&A and not the only opportunity to submit comment and questions. Trying to remain respectful of health and safety of all. Mr. Sugg, happy to continue answering questions at the end of today's meeting. The agent is speaking on behalf of the applicant since they are more familiar with the technical elements of the plan. Currently a high demand for asphalt in the community.
- 10. Gary Steinberg What will be monitored as far as air pollution and air quality? At what frequency? Mr. Sugg, number of different levels. State looks at some hourly and annually based on what type of material is being put into the air

- 11. Buck Heatherly How much do we need a new asphalt plant based on I-26 being concrete? Mr. Sugg, doesn't do the market research on saturation of the current market, but the applicant is trying to put money back into the economy. Property owner has ability to develop something that's in demand.
- 12. Tom Has the rock quarry already said they don't want the asphalt plant within proximity to this proposed site? Mr. Sugg, the applicant is already in discussions with the quarry.
- 13. Dee Expansion of I-26, has the increased in traffic been taken into consideration? Mr. Sugg, doesn't anticipate the widening will increase traffic to the site.
- 14. Ellen Reed Air particulates and noise issues? Mr. Sugg, has addressed those comments, not to everyone's liking, but what the project will mitigate
- 15. Linda McKinnish Bridges What are the positive contributions to the EFR community this project will bring? Mr. Sugg, positive impacts include the new jobs being created. New infrastructure projects throughout the community that this project will be able to assist with. The CZ locks the developer in to what is shown on the site plan and this is it.
- 16. Jenna Why should the surrounding residents be exposed to such pollutants? Mr. Sugg, NC and Henderson County have regulations in place to help mitigate the issues the applicants may produce on site.
- 17. John Kosanke Smell? How strong of a smell will this plant emit? What is the smell generated on site? Mr. Sugg, smell would be the same as the asphalt being put down on the road. The state has requirements that must be followed by the site when in operation.
- 18. Michelle How would the site provide data available for the public to review? Mr. Sugg, the reports are posted on the state of north Carolinas website and are public. Monitoring of air quality is required by the state
- 19. Mike Murphy How far out will the sounds be heard? Mr. Sugg, nothing more than ½ mile away at a maximum. Some ways it would be nice if they could be turned off, but they are required as part of safety requirements for workers. The site is will help hold the sound in since it's located in a depression.
- 20. Kim How much noise? How much smell? What are the levels? Mr. Sugg, plans on having a noise study completed and will be part of the application for Planning Board and BOC
- 21. Grace C What is the salary of the workers being paid? Mr. Sugg, living wage but doesn't know the exact dollar figure at this moment. The exact salary depends on the experience and can't be quantified at this moment.
- 22. Connie Bressler Why can't the applicant answer the questions instead of the agent? Mr. Sugg, is a civil engineer and oversees the plan and technical elements. He is the one point of contact for the project and makes it easier to have all information channeled from one individual.
- 23. Hunter Wrenn Will the applicants let the residents know what the requirements are for the state approval and how will they be mitigated if something happens? Mr. Sugg, modeling is done early in the process with regards to air quality. If after the modeling there are concerns or worries, those will be mitigated and taken seriously.
- 24. Liz Goyer Can you answer the question about property values and how they will be compensated for that reduction? Mr. Sugg, intention is not to have any detriment to surrounding property values. Mrs. Sugg is a real estate agent. But Mr. Sugg is not a real estate professional and can't speak to that specific.

- 25. Ellen How does the size of this plant compare to the plant owned by Tarheel in the Grimesdale neighborhood? Mr. Sugg, taking these into consideration, but this is a different site and different operation.
- 26. Barbara Bozon Why do they still want to build here with so much opposition? Mr. Sugg, the applicant has chosen this location because of the high demand and best site they could find to suit their needs.
- 27. Erik Riewerts How visible will the site be from the road? Will there be a berm? Mr. Sugg, there is an existing berm covered in vegetation and will remain post development. 30ft cut on the east side where the site will sit down in it. 30' and 40' depression at the bottom of the development.

## Jacob Compher (on behalf of people calling)

- 28. Nancy Wilson What are the intentions for another site? Mr. Sugg, this is the site chosen and will follow through with the process. Alternate routes in case of accident on I-26 or US25? Mr. Sugg, NCDOT will be the ones to address this issue.
- 29. Keith Sizemore What will be done with the remaining outparcel? Mr. Sugg, undeveloped at this time.
- 30. Angela Davis Does this project outweigh the negatives on the local economy? Mr. Sugg, yes.
- 31. Mike Webb How will the plant be run? Mr. Sugg, plans on running off gas.
- 32. Bruce Griffith Why he can't speak with the applicant? Mr. Sugg, is the agent and will answer any question citizens have.
- 33. Reid Who's in the conference room with you? Mr. Sugg, the attorney, applicant and property owner in the room. Are you biased on this project? Mr. Sugg, is unbiased and is a trained civil engineer. This is his profession and is getting paid to draw this plan and see it through the process. Not financially motived to get this project through.
- 34. Gordon Smith Would the applicant be willing to store materials indoors? Loading of materials indoors? Turning the 5 acres into a permanent buffer? Sound barrier walls? Mr. Sugg, they will explore the additional buffering and inside operations instead of outside. 50 trucks is all they expect on a daily basis.
- 35. Lynn Frisbee Are your answers honesty and with integrity? Mr. Sugg, yes, he has answered honestly and with integrity.
- 36. Connie Bressler Will the applicant be willing to do things for the community? Mitigate environmental issues? Mr. Sugg, the applicant will resolve any issues they make.
- 37. Mark How do we deal with the impacts of decreased land values? How would the applicant like it by their house? Mr. Sugg, hears your concern and doesn't have a response on how to best address a question like this. He can't judge what one person wants while others don't want. When did the piece of property get sold? Mr. Sugg, not privy to when the site was sold or changed hands
- 38. Ellen How does the size of the proposed plant compares to the Tarheel plant? Mr. Sugg, 200-ton site per day which is comparable in size to tarheel. Recently, tarheel has declared bankruptcy? Mr. Sugg, the applicant is financially capable of developing the site and purchasing the site.
- 39. Ben Rogers Comments about this not being a benefit to the community. Mr. Sugg, comments taken into consideration.

- 40. John Kosanke Is a zero-emission asphalt plant possible? Mr. Sugg, he will inquire with the environmental consultant about this possibility.
- 41. Erik 200-ton site per day? Mr. Sugg, 200-ton per hour. How many trucks per day for total operation? Mr. Sugg, it all depends on the amount of work the site has. 50 is a good estimate of trucks per day for total operations. Believes that is a peak number and not all day or every day.
- 42. Grace Comments on the total number of trucks being utilized per day. Mr. Sugg, the maximum amount the plan can do per hour is 200-ton. The plant will not be operating, at that level, always.
- 43. Tony Is the applicant required to or willing to compensate the loss of property values? Will the applicant pay for the health issues associated with this plant? Where does his asphalt come from right now? Mr. Sugg, at this time the comments will be taken into consideration.
- 44. Terri Reed Why the creation of six jobs trumps the loss of property values? Mr. Sugg, can't speak to property values. Just wanted to iterate what the site will look like if in operation.
- 45. Dee Why are we trying to change the zoning? Mrs. Radcliff, the site is currently zoned Community Commercial. The application is required to construct the proposed project since it's not permitted by right in the Community Commercial District.
- 46. Mark Impact on the environment is a lot. Mr. Sugg, given the current crisis therefore the zoom meeting is taking place. He wishes all could be in a room together to discuss the project in person.
- 47. Erik Riewerts Top of the berm to top of the plants highest tower? How much does the tower stick out? Mr. Sugg, the applicant is still determining which exact plant will be built. So, can't give a definitive answer on how high the tower will stick out. At what point in the process does everyone know what exactly is to be built? Mrs. Radcliff, the applicant is for an asphalt plan and that's it. Conditions can be placed on the property to regulate the height and additional buffer requirements. Can't build any height whatever the applicant wants, because the commissioners will place a limit. In the Community Commercial district, the current height restriction is 50'. The height is not unlimited.
- 48. Angela Davis Would the owner be willing to publish what an asphalt plant process looks like? Mr. Sugg, the applicant can pull together a description of how the asphalt plant works and the different modeling required for the state. The termination date for the project is not known at the moment and wants to know what the TRC and Planning Board have as comments.
- 49. Ben Rogers Is this plant self-regulated? Mr. Sugg, no, all the information must be reported to the state not directly to the feds. All levels must be reported. What is going to happen with the by-product? Mr. Sugg, will investigate it.
- 50. Linda McKinnish Bridges Questioned his honesty and integrity. Why Mr. Shipman couldn't give an introduction for the project? Mr. Sugg, the applicant is in the room and his council Brian Golden. Has tried to be as honest and upfront as possible during this process.
- 51. Terri Reed Will his employees monitor the materials and air quality? How often does the state monitor the site? Will they test adjacent property and impacts? Will residents get a report of the findings? Mr. Sugg, all reporting will be done employee and third party. Does not know how often the state will come and inspect the site. The reports are

- viewable online through the state's website. Mrs. Radcliff addressed a comment about who can represent the applicant. Mr. Warren Sugg is the agent for the applicant.
- 52. Jenna Asphalts smell with interaction of the fog? Applicants business history with asphalt? Mr. Sugg, the applicant has been doing this for several decades. Part of the monitoring and requirements by the state is to investigate the interaction asphalt has with the fog. The applicant does not own another asphalt plant but has been in the business for decades. This is a very long process and still requires multiple approvals even after the BOC.
- 53. Michelle Tennant Nicholson Not capturing the YouTube comments. People were unable to attend the zoom meeting or submit comments. Mrs. Radcliff verified that we had multiple methods to submit comments. We will go back and pull the comments from the YouTube channel and provide them to the applicant. If we have Spanish speaking individuals the County and applicant will go back and make sure they can review all materials. Will parrots adjacent to the site die? Mr. Sugg, everyone is concerned with the air pollution, but it's not a guarantee that wildlife will die.
- 54. Erik Riewerts Is the applicant willing to keep the remaining 5.4 acres not included in this application as a permanent buffer? Mr. Sugg does not know what is permitted by right in the Community Commercial district. Mrs. Radcliff gave an overview of what is permitted in the Community Commercial district. This project requires specifics vs. a general use district. In the community commercial district, a rezoning to that district all the uses must be taken into consideration. The conditional district limits the uses based on what is shown on the site plan. The applicant is leaving that remaining portion under the community commercial. Whatever is permitted by the right in the Community Commercial is allowed on that remaining portion. Mr. Sugg will take into consideration of that remaining property to be a buffer.
- 55. Steve Gospodinoff Has the applicant be made aware of the potential for loss of property values? Mr. Sugg will take those comments into consideration. Mrs. Radcliff clarified that the property was zoned Open Use in 2001 then community commercial in 2007 during the adoption of the LDC.
- 56. Christie Rogers Does he own other businesses? Mr. Sugg said the applicant doesn't have any other plants just works in the asphalt business up until this point. What was the property value differences between pre asphalt plant and post asphalt plant? Has there been a study of the economic impact of the asphalt plants in the area? Mr. Sugg said they would look into it.
- 57. Ben Rogers Will there be protective ground lining or a waste treatment pond on site? What guarantees is the applicant going to put in place to protect the water and soil? Mr. Sugg said the onsite waste system will be a septic system. The runoff from the site will be controlled by a retention pond.
- 58. Gordon Smith Will there be a place online to view all the questions and answers from today's meeting and unanswered questions? Mrs. Radcliff said there will be responses to today's questions in a summary which will be forwarded on to the Planning Board and BOC. The applicant will have additional time to submit responses to questions they were unable to answer. The recording of the meeting will be reviewable online. The NCM is not required by State law, but instead a requirement of the LDC. The Planning Board will be Thursday, June 18, 2020 through zoom. The TRC will be held Tuesday, June 16,

- 2020 through zoom as well. The TRC is a technical review only and doesn't have any approval authority of the project.
- 59. Michelle Tennant Nicholson Can you please address that your brother in law owns Tarheel Paving although you said you didn't have other family members in the in-asphalt business? Mr. Sugg said he will take it into consideration.
- 60. Erik Riewerts When do we see the environmental plan for the project? Mr. Sugg said the consultant was brought on board and will have it completed prior to the planning board meeting. Mrs. Radcliff said that the county does not have regulations in our current code that addresses state regulations. They must meet the additional requirements at those levels, but the county doesn't regulate those specifics. County will enforce that the additional state approvals necessary and make sure that all those approvals are in prior to any building should commence.
- 61. Jenna why did the applicant not disclose that he said he didn't have family in the business? Mr. Sugg said his brother was part of tarheel at some point.
- 62. Janis Does the applicant have training to run a plant? Mr. Sugg said the applicant has been in the business for multiple years and will employ the correct people to run this plant. His intent is to follow all the rules required.

With no further questions, Mrs. Radcliff stated the upcoming meetings this project will be discussed or reviewed. Final approval rests with the Board of Commissioners. She thanked all who attended the meeting today.

Meeting concluded at 5:09 PM

**Meeting Follow Up Note:** Staff sent a copy of this report to the applicant's agent to provide any additional answers or follow up information as request by citizens. The applicant received this report and request on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Any information submitted by the applicant will be sent to the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners.